

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

*Environmental Assessment for
Brigham Face Wildlife Management Area
Evans and Mathias Canyons Debris-Retention Basins Project*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has prepared this document in accordance with the procedures for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as it applies to the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (WR) as amended (50 Stat. 917, 16 U.S.C. Sec. 669 et seq.).

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) is seeking the Service's Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) approval for a grant application that proposes to allow the execution of an easement on the Brigham Face Wildlife Management Area (WMA) for the construction of two debris-retention basins. The WMA was originally acquired with Pittman-Robertson grant funds; therefore, the proposed project requires the prior written approval of the Service before activities may proceed. The Service's decision to approve the grant application constitutes a Federal action subject to the requirement of NEPA for preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA). To address this requirement, the Service prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) to analyze the impacts of the proposed project on the human environment.

As proposed in the draft EA, DWR will allow the Box Elder County/Perry Flood Control Special District (Flood District) to construct debris-retention basins at the mouth of Mathias and Evans Canyons on property within the Brigham Face Wildlife Management Area. The basins are needed to protect public safety, public infrastructure, and existing and future development from the risk of a large, potentially catastrophic debris flow or flood occurrence which could follow a wildfire or a major storm event. The EA's Proposed Action would not negatively impact wildlife or cultural resources and will allow the Flood District to make important safety improvements to the debris-retention basins. A No-Action Alternative was considered and even though this alternative would not impact any natural resources in the area, it would also not meet the need to protect public safety and infrastructure.

The draft EA was issued for a 30-day public comment period ending on February 8, 2020; no comments were received in response to the draft EA. For this reason, the Service is finalizing this EA and writing this FONSI.

Based on review of the EA, I find that the proposed action is not a major Federal action which would significantly impact the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. I also find that all reasonable alternatives were considered in the evaluation of the proposed project and that this project complies with the intent of the National Historic Preservation Act, Executive Order 11988 "Floodplain Management" and Executive Order 11990 "Protection of Wetlands." Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the project will have no effect on any listed species or critical habitat. Consequently, I have determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The EA is on file at the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 134 Union Boulevard, Lakewood, Colorado, 80228, and is available upon request. It is also available online at <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/wsfr/nepa.php>.

APPROVAL:

Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior Regions 5 and 7

Date